

## Legacy: Dr. King, Honi and Me

### Source Sheet One: Honi and the Carob Tree



#### Original Text:

יומא חד הוה אזל באורחא , חזייה לההוא גברא דהוה נטע חרובא . אמר ליה , "האי, עד כמה שנין טעין ?" אמר ליה , "עד שבעין שנין . " אמר ליה , "פשיטא לך דחיית שבעין שנין ?" אמר ליה , "האי [גברא] עלמא בחרובא אשכחתי , כי היכי דשתלי לי אבהתי שתלי נמי לבראי . " יתיב, קא כריך ריפתא , אתא ליה שינתא , נים . אהדרא ליה משוניתא , איכסי מעינא , ונים שבעין שנין . כי קם חזייה לההוא גברא דהוא קא מלקט מינייהו . אמר ליה , "את הוא דשתלתי ?" אמר ליה , "בר בריה אנא." אמר ליה , "שמע מינה דניימי שבעין שנין . " (תענית כג.)

#### Translation:

One day, [Honi the Circle Maker] was going along the road. He saw a man planting a carob tree. [Honi] said to him, "How many years does it take to bear fruit?" [The man] said to him, "Seventy years." [Honi] said to him, "Is it clear to you that you will live [another] seventy years?" [The man] said to him, "I found a world full of carob trees. Just as my ancestors planted for me, so I plant for my children." [Honi] sat down and ate. Drowsiness came to him. He fell asleep. A rock formation rose around him, he became hidden, and he slept for seventy years. When he rose, he saw that man picking [fruit] from [the tree]. [Honi] said to him, "Are you the one who planted [this tree]?" [The man] said to him, "I am his grandson." [Honi] said to him, "Therefore, I must have slept for seventy years." (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate *Ta'anit* 23a)

#### Questions for Reflection:

1. What happened in this story?
2. What motivated the man to plant the carob tree?
3. What do this man's actions teach us about taking care of the world? What do this man's actions teach us about our responsibility in planting or farming?
4. How can we keep the world in good condition for our children and grandchildren?
5. What was the man's legacy?



## Legacy: Dr. King, Honi and Me

### Source Sheet Two: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character. - Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968.

Dr. King advocated non-violent civil disobedience and used the message of freedom and justice for all to change the face of American race relations and rights for African Americans. While jailed for protesting in Birmingham Alabama in 1963, King eloquently spelled out his theory of non-violence: “Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community, which has constantly refused to negotiate, is forced to confront the issue.”

Later that summer, in August 1963, the historic March on Washington drew more than 200,000 people. It was here that King made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, emphasizing his belief that someday all men could be brothers and would be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

1. Who was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?
2. Why do we celebrate MLK Day as a national holiday?
3. What types of actions do you think Dr. King would want to see done on MLK Day today?
4. What do you think Dr. King’s legacy was?
5. How can we continue to honor Dr. King’s legacy today?

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